

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0594

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL

SUBJECT: REF DECEMBER 5 BROADCAST SCRIPT TO POLAND

1. SUMMARY. REF POLISH SERVICE DAILY COMMENTARY NO. 3000, DECEMBER 5, 1975, CONTAINS A PERSONAL ATTACK ON PROFESSOR JANUSZ SYMONIDES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (PISM). WE BELIEVE THAT THE PASSAGE CITED BELOW IS IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF RFE INTERNAL GUIDELINE NO. 12 AS CONTAINED IN THE EISENHOWER COMMISSION REPORT, "THE RIGHT TO KNOW." END SUMMARY

2. IN TAKING ISSUE WITH AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY SYMONIDES IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY, SCRIPT AUTHOR W. TROSCIANKO PLAYS ON SYMONIDES' NAME IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE. BEGIN QUOTE: BUT LET'S GO BACK TO MR. SYMONIDES, WHOSE NAME REMINDS ME BY ITS SOUND OF A CHARACTER IN POLISH LITERATURE, NAMELY CHILON CHILONIDES, BUT, OF COURSE, BEFORE THE LATTER WAS CONVERTED, EXPRESSED HIS REGRETS, AND BECAME A MARTYR. IF PROFESSOR SYMONIDES IS MARTYRED IT IS ONLY BY THE EFFORTS TO PUT TOGETHER READY-MADE PHRASEOLOGY, A JOB THAT IS SURELY DIFFICULT. BUT THE MARTICES HAVE BEEN READY FOR ALONG TIME. END QUOTE.

3. THE CHILON CHILONIDES REFERENCE IS TO A NEGATIVE CHARACTER IN SIENKIEWICZ'S QUO VADIS, A PERSECUTOR OF CHRISTIANS

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WHO ADMITTED HIS ERRORS IN THE END.

4. RESTRAINT NO. 12 READS: BEGIN QUOTE: RFE WILL NOT
BORADCAST ANY MATERIAL WHICH COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS
PETTY GOSSIP, SLANDER, OR ATTACKS ON THE PERSONAL LIVES
OR FAMILIES OF GOVERNMENT OR PARTY FIGURES, ORON INDI-
VIDUALS AS SUCH. THIS IS NOT MEANT TO EXCLUDE THE DIS-
CUSSION OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS. END
QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: THE PLAY ON SYMONIDES' NAME IS NOT ONLY
IN POOR TASTE AND A PERSONAL ATTACK
IN CONTRAVENTION OF GUIDELINE NO. 12, BUT
IS DETRIMENTAL TO EMBASSY EFFORTS TO USE PISM TO BRING
LEADING AMERICAN OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS, AND ACADEMICS
BEFORE AUDIENCES OF INFLUENTIAL POLES. SYMONIDES HAS
BEEN AMONG THE MOST HELPFUL OF PISM OFFICIALS IN ARRANG-
ING THE VISITS AND APPEARANCES OF AMERICAN SPEAKERS.
WHILE WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHY, SYMONIDES, WHO PREVIOUSLY
MADE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET VISITING AMERICANS, REFUSED
TO ATTEND A JANUARY 30 RECEPTION IN HONOR OF USIA
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR J. SHIRLEY. WE FEAR THAT MUCH CARE-
FUL WORK IN DEVELOPING SYMONIDES' COOPERATION MAY HAVE
BEEN RUINED BY AN UNNECESSARY ATTACK WHICH HAS
NO REAL RELEVANCE TO THE AUTHOR'S CRITIQUE OF THE
SUBSTANCE OF SYMONIDES' ARTICLE.
DAVIES

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